

representing said encrypted data in the form of a two-dimensional bar code structure, said bar code structure including a plurality of ordered, adjacent rows of codewords of bar-coded information, each of said codewords representing at least one information-bearing character;

transferring an image of the two-dimensional bar code structure onto a carrier;

scanning the two-dimensional bar code structure in a separate decoding station and converting the codewords into output signals representative of said information-bearing characters; and

decrypting at least some of said information-bearing characters using a decryption algorithm based upon said encryption key.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said entering step includes the substep of entering said data on a keyboard.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein said entering step includes the substep of scanning said data from a sheet.

27. The method of claim 24 wherein said transferring step includes the substep of printing the image onto the carrier.

28. The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of displaying the decrypted data in human readable form.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein said displaying step includes the substep of displaying the decrypted data on a CRT display.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein said displaying step includes the substep of displaying the decrypted data on a liquid crystal display.

31. The method of claim 28 wherein said displaying step includes the substep of displaying the decrypted data on a printer.

32. A facsimile communications system for transmitting a document to a destination comprising:

means for entering transmission information including a destination telephone number;

means for converting said transmission information into a two-dimensional bar code representation;

means for affixing said two-dimensional bar code representation of said transmission information, including the destination telephone number, to said document;

means for scanning said document, including said two-dimensional bar code representation fixed thereto, and for producing signals representing said transmission information; and

means for transmitting said document to said destination in accordance with said signals representing said transmission information, including the destination telephone number.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein said two-dimensional bar code representation includes a plurality of ordered, adjacent rows of codewords of bar coded information, each of said codewords representing at least one information-bearing character.

34. The system of claim 32, wherein said means for affixing said two-dimensional bar code representation to said document includes a printer for printing said two-dimensional bar code representation on said document.

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